

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS ASSESSMENT

Area Name: Mt. Trumbull Addition

BLM Name: East Mt. Trumbull

Proposal Source: Public X BLM Other

Documentation Team: Voyles, Walsh, Folks

Date: 11/18/03

I. PROPOSAL SUMMARY: (Provide a synopsis of the proposal and/or new resource information that has been provided as part of the planning process.)

As Quoted from the AWC proposal dated July 31, 2002:

“The Arizona Wilderness Coalition recommends the 8,448-acre proposed Mt. Trumbull Wilderness Addition for Wilderness designation. A review of the 1979-82 wilderness inventory process demonstrates that the agency’s wilderness suitability criteria for the unit was inconsistently and incorrectly applied. New information derived from a recent citizen’s inventory supports the conclusion that the area meets the agency’s wilderness suitability criteria under the 2001 BLM Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures.”

The AWC describes the area as a scenic arena of cinder cones, lava flows, and Great Basin desert scrub and grasses, and other volcanic features of the Uinkaret Mountains. , raptors, and other desert species.

The AWC is proposing that the roads inside the unit be closed or cherry stemmed to allow for access to maintain existing uses.

The AWC states that the proposed Mt. Trumbull Addition Wilderness’ size and terrain variation contribute to outstanding opportunities for both solitude, and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

The AWC also lists several supplemental values, which they have found within the unit.

II. AREA DESCRIPTION: (Include a concise summary of pertinent information listed below.)

A. Land Ownership & Acreage:

With the exception of approximately 480 acres of State of Arizona lands, the unit is entirely lands administered by the BLM. The total acreage in the AWC proposal is 8,448. After careful assessment, BLM documented only one of the three wilderness characteristics; opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation on 8,448 acres.

B. Topography:

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS ASSESSMENT

The topography of this unit consists of the rolling hills, washes, and flats that flank the eastern base of Mt. Trumbull. Various colorful cinder cones rise abruptly from the slopes. In the northern portion, outcrops of Kaibab limestone emerge from beneath the lava and cinder blanket that covers most of the unit.

C. Vegetation:

The vegetation over most of the consists of grasses, sagebrush and pinyon-juniper woodlands. Grasses, shrubs and low density pinyon-juniper dominate the southern portion of the unit where past vegetation treatments have been carried out.

D. Existing Issues:

Protection of Monument objects; maintenance of relatively unspoiled landscapes; OHV route creation; visual resources (as seen from Mohave County Road 5)

E. Current Management Allocations/Prescriptions (RMP, AMP, HMP, etc.):

See Arizona Strip RMP, 1992

F. Location and Access:

The area is accessed via Mohave County Roads 5 and 717, as well as several interior unnumbered routes

G. List of Topographic Maps:

BLM 1:100,000 Quadrangles
Mount Trumbull

USGS 1:24,000 Quadrangles
Mount Trumbull NE, AZ; Mount Trumbull SE, AZ

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS ASSESSMENT

H. Photo Points: (List and attach)

Date	#	Camera Azimuth	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Roverfile
7\30\03	1	90	PT1 Reclaiming route	4027370 n 310088 e	R073007A
7\30\03	2	190	PT2 Route with light ATV use	4027225 n 310680 e	R073008A
7\30\03	3	230	PT3 Tertiary route with light to moderate ATV use	4028379 n 314802 e	R073008B
7\30\03	4	290	PT4 Tertiary route into chaining; light use.	4029539 n 313201 e	R073008C
7\30\03	5	270	PT5 Eroded route with light use	4032396 n 312677 e	R073010A
7\30\03	6	90	PT6 Secondary route with regular, moderate use; access to Witch Pool.	4032174 n 313602 e	R073010B
7\30\03	7	60	PT7 Tertiary route with light use	4035570 n 314850 e	R073011A

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS ASSESSMENT

Area Name: Mt. Trumbull Addition

BLM Name: East Mt. Trumbull

III. NATURALNESS

Evaluate the extent to which past and present human activities have been established and the degree to which they might affect naturalness as defined: *“Lands and resources exhibit a high degree of naturalness when **affected primarily** by the forces of nature and where the **imprint** of human activity is **substantially unnoticeable**.”* (IM 2003-275, Attachment 1)

DEFINITIONS: **Affected:** “Acted upon, influenced. To have brought about a change in.”; **Primarily:** “At first; originally. Principally; chiefly.” **Imprint:** “A distinguishing influence or effect”; **Substantial:** “Being of considerable importance, value, degree, amount, or extent.” **Unnoticeable:** “Not readily attracting notice (observation, attention)”

Summary of Attributes	Yes	No	If No, list #
Are motor vehicle travel routes absent from the area?		X	15
Are fences or other developments absent from the area?		X	21
Are other landscape modifications, such as vegetative treatment areas, active or inactive mines, spoils, or prospects, etc., absent from the area?		X	15
Are native vegetation communities present?	X		
Does the area provide or contribute to the connectivity of habitats?	X		
Do the proposal's photo points and/or descriptions accurately reflect existing conditions?		X	
Do developments create visual contrast levels that cause them to be ‘substantially <u>noticeable</u> ’?	X		

Document the information above using photo points, field maps and appropriate GIS themes including a “Naturalness” layer.

Narrative: (Describe your assessment of the attributes listed above. Provide rationale for your determination of whether or not the attributes, when taken together, indicate the presence or absence of natural conditions in the area or portions of the area. If determined to be present, does the area exhibit a **high degree** of naturalness.)

Within the Mt. Trumbull Addition area, 15 routes (18.6 miles, with a density of 1.4 miles/square mile), 12 fences (16.3 miles), 3 pipelines (14.5 miles), 4 reservoirs, 1 water tank and 1 wildlife catchment structure exist. In addition, 15 vegetation treatment areas (1,857 acres) lie largely along the Mt. Trumbull Wilderness boundary. While many of the vegetation treatments are in the process of returning to natural condition, their “imprint of human activity” remains substantially noticeable in the moderate to high visual contrast they create with the remaining untreated lands.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS ASSESSMENT

Of the 8,448 acres proposed by the AWC, none were found by the BLM to contain a high degree of naturalness.

Travel Routes present: (List)

The following AWC proposed route closures were field assessed and the following observations were recorded (see travel route map for all routes within assessment unit):

Route A-B: While the western portion of this route was found to be eroding, it and the eastern portion show signs of somewhat regular use. Use appears to be regular enough to prevent vegetation from overtaking the travelway. (see Photo Points 5, 6) Route accesses livestock reservoir and trough, as well as several vegetation treatments.

Route E-F: This route (access for Mt. Trumbull #4 Wildlife Water Catchment, a livestock water trough, and may be the original constructed road to Nixon Flat and Mt. Trumbull area) is receiving light use, especially in the western segment. (see Photo Points 1, 2) The eastern segment is appears to have more moderate use. (see Photo Point 3)

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS ASSESSMENT

Area Name: Mt. Trumbull Addition

BLM Name: East Mt. Trumbull

IV. SOLITUDE

Evaluate the extent to which **outstanding opportunities** for solitude exist in the area as defined: *“When the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people are **rare** or **infrequent** and where visitors can be isolated, alone or **secluded** from others.” (IM 2003-275, Attachment 1)*

DEFINITIONS: **Outstanding:** “Standing out; projecting outward or upward. Conspicuous among other of its kind; prominent. Pre-eminent among others of its kind; distinguished.”; **Opportunity:** “A favorable or promising combination of circumstances. A favorable time or circumstance.”; **Rare:** “Infrequently occurring; uncommon. Highly valued owing to uncommonness; special.”; **Infrequent:** “Not frequent; rare. Not occurring regularly; occasional.”; **Secluded:** “Removed or remote from others; solitary. Screened from view.”

Summary of Attributes	Yes	No
Does the area possess a landform that is of moderate to rugged relief that would provide some degree of screening from other people who might be in the area?	X	
Does the area possess adequate vegetation that would provide some degree of screening from other people who might be in the area?	X	
Does the size of the area contribute to creating opportunities for visitors to enjoy the area without frequent contact with others in the area?	X	
Are sights, sounds and evidence of other people in the area rare or infrequent?	X	
Are sights, sounds and evidence of low-flying aircraft infrequent?	X	
Does the area allow visitors to be isolated, alone or secluded from others?	X	
If vehicle routes are present, is the distance from such routes, existing vegetative cover and/or infrequent use of the route adequate to allow for solitude?		X
Is the area distant from communities and urbanization or difficult to reach by motor vehicle?		X

Document the information above using photo points, field maps and appropriate GIS themes including a “Solitude” layer.

Narrative: (Describe your assessment of the attributes listed above. Provide rationale for your determination of whether or not the attributes, when taken together, indicate **outstanding** opportunities for solitude in the area or portions of the area. Describe relevant visitor use statistics (RMiS) and typical activities, where available. Also assess the effect of topography and vegetation as factors that affect the potential for screening visitors from one another.)

Mt. Trumbull Addition provides some opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others. Moderate topographic relief exists throughout the unit including, deep washes, lava fields, cinder cones, boulder piles, and rock outcrops. There are also areas of pinyon-juniper woodland vegetation that can provide some screening to avoid others. In places, an understory of Manzanita, turbinella oak, mountain mahogany, and cholla increases the density of this

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS ASSESSMENT

woodland. However, much of the western portion of the area has undergone vegetation treatments (chainings) in the past, reducing the screening ability of the remaining vegetation. Likewise, routes within and/or along the unit's edges reduce the ability to avoid the sights and sounds and evidence of their use, making opportunities for solitude near them less than outstanding. While opportunities for solitude are fair to good in places, they are not outstanding.

Of the 8,448 acres proposed by the AWC, none were found to contain outstanding opportunities for solitude.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS ASSESSMENT

Area Name: Mt. Trumbull Addition

BLM Name: East Mt. Trumbull

V. PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED RECREATION

Evaluate the extent to which **outstanding opportunities** for **primitive** and **unconfined** types of recreation exist in the area as defined: *“Where the use of the area is through non-motorized, non-mechanical means, and where no or minimal developed recreation facilities are encountered.” (IM 2003-275, Attachment 1)* Consider setting-appropriate types of recreation activities, such as those listed in the ROS Activity Characterization.

DEFINITIONS: **Outstanding:** “Standing out; projecting outward or upward. Conspicuous among other of its kind; prominent. Pre-eminent among others of its kind; distinguished.”; **Opportunity:** “A favorable or promising combination of circumstances. A favorable time or circumstance.”; **Primitive:** “Of or relating to an earliest or original stage or state. Marked by simplicity or crudity; unsophisticated.”; **Unconfined:** “Not kept within bounds; not restricted. Not restricted in movement.”

Summary of Attributes	Yes	No	If No, list #
Is the current recreational use of the area mostly non-motorized, non-mechanical?		X	
Does the area have minimal or no developed recreation facilities?	X		
Is the size of the area conducive to primitive and unconfined types of outdoor recreation activities?	X		
Are there features or attractions within the area that lend themselves to primitive and unconfined types of outdoor recreation activities?	X		

Document the information above using photo points, field maps and appropriate GIS themes including a “Primitive/Unconfined Recreation” layer.

Narrative: (Describe your assessment of the attributes listed above. Provide rationale for your determination of whether or not the attributes, when taken together, indicate **outstanding opportunities** for primitive and unconfined types of recreation in the area or portions of the area.)

Mt. Trumbull Addition provides an outstanding opportunity for several different types of non-urban types of recreation. Recreation use of the area does not depend on developed facilities and there are numerous geologic (lava flows, cinder cones, incised washes) and cultural features (Witch Pool, old Trumbull road) within the area that offer outstanding opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined types of recreation, including hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, photography, sightseeing, and possibly caving.

Of the 8,448 acres proposed by the AWC, all 8,448 acres were found to contain outstanding opportunities for primitive/unconfined recreation.